The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.



The Aperitif Hour

Speaking of Soft Snaps---England Can Give Pointers

(Special Correspondence.) ONDON, Feb. 2.—When an Englishman and American fall to cussing the merits, or denerits, of the government and institutions of the two countries, the Englishman never fails to remind the American that there are a lot more grafters in public life in America than there are in England. And he takes keen delight in rubbing that informa-

ore officials here than there in America who get whopping oil ries for doing next to nothing at There are no such downright, soft snaps to be found in the Unit-States as exist in this old land. nowledge of a few of these extravit and mostly superfluous billets help Americans to retailate a bit next an Englishman points the ar of scorn at American corruption,

To him that hath shall be given. The farquis of Cholmondeley owns 55,000 cres, has a magnificent palace for a seidence, and enjoys the softest and est paid of all the many soft snaps not exist in the united kingdom. For he Marquis of Cholmondeley is the ereditary lord great chamberlain of ingland. For filling that purely oramental billet he gets, \$22,500 a year, which is more than any state or fedral official in the United States gets of the same to a lot of lease of pastebaard, for nobody is dimitted to the show who does not resent a ticket bearing his signature.

TAKES A TIP INSTEAD.

and any gown, the bedstead and all the rest of the furniture of his majesty's bedchamber. He never really takes the things. In these sordid days he takes a tip of \$1,500 instead.

Another of his exalted hereditary privileges is to serve the king with water in which to wash his hands before and after the coronation banquet. For performing this arduous duty he is allowed to retain the basin and the towels as his special perquisites. He isn't particular about the towels, but he always collars the basin, for custom prescribes that it must be of gold and worth at least \$1,000. He gets other perquisites, besides. The king has to provide him with 50 yards of crimson velvet with which to make himself a robe to be worn at the coronation. Of course it doesn't take anything like that quantity of stuff to make the garment, but precedent demands it and precedent must be beyed or something awful might happen.

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The hereditary lord great chambertain, it will thus be seen, makes a very good thing out of the coronation in addition to his regular pay. His billed is absolutely superfluous, but for that very reason many years are likely to elapse before it is abolished. The more useless an office which represents an antique survival the more tenaciously do conservative English folk insist on its retention.

The noble marquis enjoys another unique distinction. It is the possession of a name that nobody was everknown to pronounce correctly the first time he came across it in print. The correct pronunclation is "Chumley." What is the true explanation of this orthographic freak I have never been able to discover.

MANY SOFT SNAPS

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There are many soft snaps in the king's household for the existence of which his majesty is in no way responsible. In fact he is the one man in the kingdom who has not the right to regulate his menage to suit his own notions. The various grades of exalted flunkeys attached to the court are prescribed by cast iron custom to which the king has to submit. He can't put down his foot anywhere and say, "This chap isn't earning his pay and I don't want him around. I'll give him the sack, abolish his job and save the money."

Any such action on his part would cause all sorts of ructions that would probably shake the throne to its foundations. The best paid billets in the royal menage are regarded as political

plums, subject to the rule, "To the victors belong the spoils," and they are filled by the government which happens to be in power. When the Liberal party came in a lot of ornamental figure-heads were bounced to make way for others of a different political faith. Thus it came about that the Hon "Bobby" Spencer was made lord chamberlain and created a peer that he might properly sustain the tremendous dignity of the position. The job is an easy one, but there is more work attached to it than to the office of lord great chamberlain, which is a good and sufficient reason, according to the English method of fixing official salaries, why he should receive less than half as much pay.

INSIGNIA OF OFFICE.

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He gets \$10,000 a year. He is supposed to be responsible for the smooth running of things upstairs in Buckingham Palace, except in the royal sleeping apartments where the first gentleman of the bedchamber holds supreme sway. Of course the real work is done by the permanent underlings who receive much smaller salaries. When the lord chamberlain does official stunts he carries a white staff and a gold key attached to his person by a blue ribbon. The gold key nover locks or unlocks anything.

Below stairs, among the kitchen pots and pans, the lord steward is the nominal boss. He gets the same pay as the lord chamberlain—\$10,000 a year. The appointment is a political one and when the Liberals came in the Earl of Liverpool had to clear out to make way for Earl Beaurhamp. As in the lord chamberlain's department the real work is done by the permanent staff.

Another virtual sineoure and the best paying of the lot in the king's household is that of master of the horse. The salary is \$12,500 a year. The Earl of Granard, who happens to be rather hard up for a peer, although he married an American wife, found it paid to be a Liberal when he received the appointment.

ANOTHER EASY JOB.

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The master of the horse is supposed to look after the royal "Mews" as livery stables are called here, and the various equipages of their majesties. It is doubtful if he ever crosses the threshold of the king's stables. Anyhow his pay would not be docked if he didn't. He is only required to show up on state occasions. When hig functions are under way his majesty is in charge of the lord chamberlain until he leaves the palace door. Then the master of the horse assumes responsibility for his sacred person until the place of ceremonial is reached where the earl marshal takes him in head

place of ceremonial is reached where the earl marshal takes him in hand. Another easy court billet is that of the capital of the yeomen of the guard. The salary is \$6,000 a year which is first class pay, considering that the duties of the office are purely, ceremonial and involve nothing that by any stretch of the imagination could be regarded as hard work.

The yeomen of the guard, in conjunction with the gentlemen-at-arms constitute the bodyguard of the sovereign. Their costumes and weapons are those of the period of King Henry VIII who created them. Their functions are entirely ornamental, for the real safeguarding of the king is attended to by sleuths from Scotland Yard who, above all things, are inconspicuous.

ANCIENT CUSTOMS.

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Custom requires that the captains of these picturesque but useless warriors should be peers. When the Liberal administration came in the Duke of Manchester was appointed captain of the yeomen of the guard. The duke it will be remembered, married Miss Zimmerman of Cincinnati, and it is supposed that he took the job to show his father-in-law, who had been urging him to set to work in America, that he could make more money over here and far easier.

At the commencement of every session of parliament, the yeomen of the guard, under the leadership of their noble captain, explore the underground precincts of St. Stephens, with old-fashioned horn lanterns and antique halberds, in search of a possible Guy Fawkes with "engines of hellish thunder." Of course they never discoverany dynamite or other explosives, but the pretense of looking for them has to be kept up because it is an ancient custom.

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For some reason that has never been divulged, the Duke of Manchester resigned his soft-snap tillet after leading one such expedition and doing his best to look solemn over it. It is said that the king expressed the opinion that a nobleman who had had the good fortune to marry an American heiress was under no necessity of adding to his income. Anyhow, the berth was bestowed on Lord Allendale, who needed the money. The captain of the gentlemen-at-arms, who gets the same pay, is Lord Denman.

\$67 A DAY FOR NOTHING

The lords-in-waiting also get shift-ed whenever there is a change of ad-

Alcoholic Vice That Costs France an Empress Eugenie of France and Army Corps Every Year.

National Degeneration Attributed to the Increase in Absinthe and Spirit Drinking, and an Effort is Being Made to Win the People Back Again to Wine-League Against Alcohol Doesn't Preach Teetotalism.

ing through what may be called an alcohol crisis Many of her public men de-clare that she is in the grasp of a nuch more dreaded foe than ordinary poison-absinthe.

This great republic is awakening to the fact that her people are on the docline, morally, physically and mentally, and the momentous question of absinthism is so vital an issue that noted French doctors like Brouardel, Huchard and Motet of the Academie de Medicine are using their united efforts, to arouse all Frenchmen to the dangerous pitfall that is at their

Heretofore, the wine drinking coun tries such as Italy, Spain and France have hardly understood the word rarely met with either in the workman or in the upper class. In any o with derision, hooted at by the small boy and was a target for the jeers and hisses of every passerby; but this feel

still keep to their custom of drinking only the natural light wines of their country, and they remain sober, in-dustrious and law abiding, but in France the gradual introduction of spirits has brought into existence a ity, a less robust physique and filled

BIG PROBLEM.

France is facing a big problem. The thinking Frenchmen all are using their united strength and brain to check this evil, the sorry consequences of which evil, the sorry consequences of which are so manifest today. The whole beautiful country of France is in the throes of the Green Plague. A greater adversary than ever Napoleon had to fight against is in her cities with powerful allies in the towns and the countryside. Napoleon is generally accredited with robbing France of her most stalwart men, thus leaving in his wake only the weaker, but the savants now claim that alcoholic drinks, the most formidable of which is absinthe, are the cause for the degeneration of today. In the minds of the majority of Europeans the army and navy are the backbone of every country and there is much reason in this conclusion. Until a more enlightened era, when a universal peace conference will settle all international disputes, the countries of Europe must protect themselves with a strong army of stalwart men. It is in the French army that the disastrous effects of too much alcohol or absinthe drinking are felfirst. Most of the recruits indulge more or less in the poisonous drink, so that the very foundation of the army is undermined and weakened. According to the statement made by a famous officer the garrisons are filled with men physically unfit, the hospitals are encumbered with sick soldiers, the police stations and prisons are filled with insubordinate men, the undoubted cause being drink. Drink, he says, is the arch enemy to discipline and without discipline there is no army.

DECREASE IN POPULATION. This sad state of affairs has extended even to the colonies and the nativo Africans are being decimated by the alcohol habit introduced to them by the occidentals. Regions that were very productive are slowly becoming denuded of labor, for the colonists must depend on the native negro, inasmuch as the white man is not acclimatized and perhaps in certain districts never can be.

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Statistics show the appalling decrease of the population in the provinces of Brittany, Normandy, Picard, etc., where the race has been, heretofore, so strong and vigorous. In Normandy alone there has been a lose in the last 25 years of 200,000 inhabitants. In some districts the rapid decline of the race has been 50 or 50 per cent of the population. When one realizes that the French as a people are not emigrating to other countries one must look for the cause for this terrible railing off. Children born of alcoholic parents die by the hundreds before leaving the cradle, and the military authorities claim that alcohol costs France an army corps each year and the French army contains only 20 corps.

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France has a unique custom—that is the "aperitif hour." What the French people call "aperitif" is in the American parlance an appetizer. Each day from 5 o'clock on, practically all men cease whatever work they are engaged in to indulge in their habitual aperitif which is in the great majority of cases a glass of absinthe. Other countries in Europe depend on their afternoon tea or coffee but the Frenchman in general absolutely demands his absinthe. This is a daily routine that is followed out almost without a break and the custom is no respecter of classes. There is simply a difference in price, quality, and place of taking it. The cafes at this hour present a scene of great activity. Cafe life in Paris is out-door life and the chill of winter is no barrier to this out-door drinking. An awning protects the patron from the elements while a huge cylinder stove is supposed to give the necessary warmth. On the boulevards are cafes where the bourgeoise and the men of independent means congregate at the hour when they take their aperitif. The price of absinthe here is 10 or 12 cents a glass and if there is a virtue in absinthe it exists in the fact that at these better cafes the drink is at least unadulterated.

ABSINTHE AT LUNCH HOUR

An exact imitation of this daily scen An exact imitation of this daily scene occurs in the poorer quarters. Instead of the well dressed man of the period one sees the white or blue overalls of the workmen and hands and face still covered with the grime and dirt of the day's labor. All have stopped work for an hour or half an hour, as the case may be, and they, too, are talking, gesticulating and arguing over their glass of absinthe. Their absinthe is only three or four cents a glass and it is a drink that contains the most nauseous ingredients, a mixture that only three or four cents a glass and it is a drink that contains the most nauseous ingredients, a mixture that first excites the brain and ends by turning men into worse than beasts. The alcoholic habit is a constant drain on the slender purse of the meagerly paid workman and the dire results are far-reaching. The wife becomes a martyr to the husband's habits, and the children degenerate. They are born with a tendency to epileptic fits, scrofula and idiocy, thereby filling the whole country with undesirable citizens. The papers are constantly filled with the cold blooded crimes that are nightly taking place in Paris alone. These degenerate offispring of the imbibers of absinthe are called "apaches." Usually they are young fellows from 17 to 39 years old—small in stature, slight and far from athletic looking.

CRIMES OF DEGENERATES.

CRIMES OF DEGENERATES. Their manner of attack is always underhand; a warning is seldom given to their victim and their habit is to slip quietly up to a person from behind and without a word, plunge a knife in his back. Sometimes a life has been sacrificed for the sake of a few pence and again and again the court trials have brought out the fact that the apache has killed for no other reason than a desire to shed blood. These degenerates are not of one sex. The women apaches are as savage and unmerciful toward their victims as the men. All of them carry weapons, generally a long knife, and when aroused to a frenzy they are the most barbarous creatures that a civilized country ever harbored.

The great doctor, Prof. Hayen, says it is useless to struggle against that dread disease, tuberculosis, unless one gets under control the abuse of alcohol. Alcoholic drinks, he states emphatically, are responsible for a large percentage of tubercular disease.

Guizot, the great French historian, in speaking of the condition of France between the years 1483-1659, said it was a "period of decay and of a new birth—a time for re-forming itself and setting itself in order." This observation is most applicable to the present day. The whole thinking class of this great country has braced itself for a long and determined fight against alcoholism and already its efforts are meeting with some success, but the task is a great one and it will require heroic efforts.

already its efforts are meeting with some success, but the task is a grea-one and it will require heroic effort ere the new birth can be hoped for.

FIGHT FOR TEMPERANCE.

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The National league against alcohol, of which M. Voisin is the president, has been instrumental in bringing about a gradual reform, slow as all colossal movements are bound to be, but still it is making sure headway in its big undertaking. The league does not advocate tectotallsm. It only suggests using wine, beer and cider in moderation, but for spirits and aperitifs it enforces total abstinence. This organization has opened temperance cafes in different sections of Paris and also in many of the other cities in France. At the aperitif hour, tea, coffee or hot wine is served. Reading rooms have also been established in different quaralso been established established in different quaralso been established establi with these libraries there are gymnasiums for the use of everyone. The alm of these readingrooms is to entice the workingman to spend his aperitif hour at these places. On each visit of a workman an illustrated card is given him. No matter how often the subject differs it always shows the laborer who abstains from alcohol as happy, healthy and prosperous while underneath is the object lesson, usually a poverty stricken workman, a hideous spectacle—the victim of drink. As an inducement for the people to patronize these club rooms prizes are offered for the return of a certain number of these illustrated cards. New clothing, household utensils and even furniture are given in exchange for them.

WORK IN SCHOOLS.

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Then great work is being done in the schools. It is by the present generation of children, who are being instructed in the abuses of alcohol and the terrible consequences of over indulgence, that the future stamping out of the green plague is expected to be accomplished. These children have entered into the movement with all the energy and en thusiasm of youth.

France as a nation uses more absinthe than all the rest of the world put together. Statistics show that last year 5,00,000 gallons were consumed by the French people alone. Several times a heavy tax on the liquor has been proposed, thus putting it beyond the reach of the poorer classes, but as yet no serious steps have been taken to make it a law.

J. H. DUVAL.

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Memoirs She Didn't Write

ARIS, Feb. 2.-Jules Claretie has made public some of the facts about the "fake" edition of ex-Empress Eugenie's memoirs market: but it happens that the present writer can add some further infor-mation received direct by him from a friend and confidante of the exempress.

Some four years ago this great lady really did consider seriously the pos-sibility of giving to the world some a it is said would make it necessary for historians of the Franco-German war and the reign of Napoleon III to re-

Of course American publishers wer among the first to hear the news, and one of them said to the writer at the time:

one of them said to the writer at the time:

"I consider this book, if it can be had, to be the most valuable work that is available to the world today, in the way of memoirs."

Offers to her majesty poured in from all sides, and I understand that she finally had in sight \$100,000 for the magazine rights and as cash guarantee for the book rights, the money to be paid on the nail on delivery of the MS. to a French publisher who was conducting the negotiations in behalf of a syndicate made up of one leading publisher in each of the principal countries, and the \$100,000 was to be augmented by heavy royakies on the work.

HER MAJESTY SAID "NO."

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There was much traveling of publishers to and fro between New York, London, Berlin and Paris, and the arrangements were so far completed that contracts were all drawn up between everybody concerned—all except with the grand dame principally interested. She, on looking over the documents for which the publishers were so hungry, decided, so I am told, that their publication might strengthen the old charge that her own social and political ambitions were directly and indirectly the cause of the Franco-German war which plunged France into misery, debt and humiliation and cost her Alsace and Lorraine, and likewise her majosty's husband his throne in 1871. There were details, too, that did not show the amiable Napoleon III in the best light, and so at last his widow set her imperial foot down on the idea of publishing any of her memoirs, or any of her

ing any of her memoirs, or any of her letters.

It was a trying time for the exempress after that decision. Personal friends, induced by promises of goodly commissions, kept on approaching her with all sorts of arguments to prove that it was her duty to the world to open those precious safes at Farnborough where she lives. Her personal secretary, M. Pletri, was kept busy answering letters and keeping off impoverished marquises with publishers commissions in their pockets. But the more her majesty was besought, the more she wouldn't yield. According to her own statement not one line of the forthcoming "Memoirs" has she written, or read, or authorized, and it was undoubtedly at her personal request that M. Clarette has made the announcement that the "Memoirs" are bogus. They have been offered all over Europe, and came near getting sold to at least one American publisher. Now that the facts have come out, probably they will be suppressed, although it is said that a huge French edition had already been printed.

TOO RICH TO MARRY.

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Of course the money side of the offers made to her didn't appeal much to the ex-empress, for she is extremely rich—probably one of the richest women in the world, outside of America. Perhaps her own inclinations were not altogether in the way, either, for her final decision was reached only a short time ago after a visit from her nephew and heir, Victor Napoleon, who, doubtless, would be Napoleon IV. Emperor of France, at this mo-

HISTORIC TREASURES

as charitable as her means will alow. In the gayest of her days she had a thought for the poor. When she field from the Tuilleries, and rude hands went through her wardrobe, 50 parasols were found in one drawer. Her furs were valued at \$15,00,000, and the whole of her wardrobe at \$1,00,000. Yet she was lavish where charlides were concerned. She holds the highest record in sponsorship: for she is godmother to 3,600 children. When her only child, the late prince imperial was born. Napoleon III announed that he and his wife would stand sponsors to all children born in France on the same day. The children whe thus claimed imperial godparents to talled the above number. Despite empress

on the same day. The children we thus claimed imperial godparents to taled the above number. Peoplic changed circumstances, the empress still keeps an exact list of her charges, and has set aside a legacy for each on now living.

It is hard to picture the empress as the Mile. Montijo of 70 years ago. Nor she is a drab, dowdy old lady living in a sleepy English country place. Then she appeared at buil lights is Madrid, dressed in brilliant Andaluşlar costumes with whip in her hand, dar ger in her belt and elgarette in her mouth. She was a thorough tom-bon-Her piranse were excused, however, by reason of her astonishing beauty-as washington Irving said: "Her clear brow, shining with youth and swice her gentle blue eyes sparkling berashlong lashes which almost concealed them, her exquistlely formed nose, her mouth fresher than a rosebud, the perfect oval of her face."

LEON RAYMOND.

ministration. There are seven of them
—one for every day in the week—so
that except on big state occasions when
they all have to show up—each of them
has to be on duty only one day in the
week. For that they are paid \$3,510 a
year each, which is over \$67 a day for
such apologies for work as they perform when they are in attendance on
the king. Nobody will deny that their
jobs should be classified among the soft
snaps.

Jobs should be classified among the soft snaps.

The gentleman of the cellars in the king's household, T. Kingscote, has an easy billet. He gets \$4,000 a year for keeping an eye on the wine department and seeing to it that when drinks are called for the supply never runs short. A few years ago Hugh Cecil Lea, who sits in parliament for East St. Pancras, startled the house by openly charging that Kingscote, not content with, the generous emoluments of his office, made

use of it to greatly increase his income. He said that Kingscote acted as chief agent and tout for one of the biggest champagne firms, that he excluded all other brands from the royal palaces, and by representing it as the favorite wine of his majesty enormously increased its rate.

wine of his majesty enormously increased its sales.

Mr. Lea had spent several years in America, where he had acquired the habit of plain speaking, regardless of whom it hurt. But it didn't hurt Kingscote. It only served to prove the strength of his "pull," for he is the son of Sir Nigel Kingscote, the paymaster of the royal household. The charges were never denied, but no investigation followed and Kingscote still retains his billet, as also the post of honorary gentleman usher, whatever that may be. Not only are the holders of real soft, snap jobs far better paid in Englandthan in America, but they are much

less liable to get the sack, no matter what they do.

SPEAKER'S DUTY.

It would be a gross exaggeration to describe the post of speaker of the house of commons as a soft snap. But his work is not nearly as arduous as that of the speaker of the house of commons as a soft snap. But his work is not nearly as arduous as that of the speaker of the house of representatives, for he has nothing to do with steering legislation. He has merely to see to it that the rules of the political game are strictly observed. He is paid \$25,000 a year and provided with a handsome suite of apartments to live in, and a special flunkey to attend him, when he moves about in his official grown, to keep it from getting tangled up in his legs. When he three of the speakership he can jump into a genuine soft snap right off—a peerage with-a pension of \$20,000 a year for the rest of his life.

upon all strangers to do him homes by removing their hats. He gets \$5,001 a year and his chief duty is to sum mon the speaker and the commons the upper house on ceremonial of

BLACK ROD REBUFFED. When he appears at the door of the house of commons a curious procedum takes place. The sergeant-at-arms aways slams the door in his face, The is supposed to signify that the commons will brook no interference with their rights and privileges by the preers. When the door has been class Black Rod knocks humbly upon

peers. When the door has been cless Black Rod knocks humbly upon in three times. Then the sergenter arms opens a little wicket gate as peering through it asks what is meaning of the row, or words to the effect. Black Rod explains and is the admitted.